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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
First regular session 2005
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Agenda item 9

Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board

Joint programming

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the assessment of the UNICEF experience of joint programming contained in document E/ICEF/2004/10;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made to date by UNICEF in working with programme countries to maximize the impact of the particular expertise of UNICEF when strengthening joint programming, aimed at improving the coherence of the United Nations at field level, programming efficiency, avoiding duplication and reducing transaction costs for programme countries and thus to contribute to better overall results, and *encourages* the Executive Director to continue to work with Governments and other partners towards that end;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance that the Executive Board attaches to UNICEF using joint programming as a tool for supporting the implementation of national poverty reduction strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers where they exist, through a more concerted approach under the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. *Requests*, therefore, that the Executive Director, in cooperation with the other agencies of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in implementing joint programming, ensure that joint programming, including joint programmes where appropriate, results in improved development impact, including where appropriate to:

(a) Further harmonize country programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and improve communication between United Nations agencies during the whole programme cycle;

(b) Effectively deliver programme goals and contribute to the reduction of transaction costs;

(c) Promote common monitoring and reporting systems and joint approaches to evaluations;

5. *Takes note* of the efforts of UNICEF in contributing to the continued development by UNDG of a common framework, to include a common reporting framework, for joint programmes that improves the impact and efficiency of United Nations agencies' efforts to support national Governments, including UNICEF efforts to identify circumstances under which joint programmes should be used and what improvements in development impact would be achieved via use of joint programmes;

6. *Emphasizes* the UNICEF mandate and its budgetary, financial reporting and evaluation responsibilities, including with respect to joint programmes;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on UNICEF participation in joint programming and joint programmes in her annual report to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2005, and to submit to the Board for its consideration at the annual session of 2006 a comprehensive report on the implementation of joint programming as outlined in this decision and on the further elaboration of the UNDG Joint Programming Guidelines, including information on experiences and an analysis of resources allocated to the three options of fund management for joint programmes, and the resulting benefit in development impact or efficiency gains.